

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00293 120457Z

13

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SY-04 SCCT-01 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NIC-01 NASA-02 AID-05 OPR-02 MC-02 USSS-00 /085 W

----- 117974

O P 120405Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6952

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MA

SUBJECT: MALAGASY HEAD OF STATE ASSASSINATED

DEPT PASS DIA

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

1. CONFIRMING INFORMATION WHICH WE SENT SEVERAL HOURS
AGO VERBALLY TO DEPT VIA NASA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, MALAGASY
RADIO NOW CARRYING OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSASSINATION
EVENING FEB 11 OF COLONEL RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA, WHO
BECAME HEAD OF STATE AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT ONLY ON
FEBRUARY 5.

2. NEW CARRIED INFORM OFFICIAL DECLARATION BY
BRIG GEN GILLES ANDRIAMHAZO, SENIOR ACTIVE OFFICER OF
ARMED FORCES AND CHAIRMAN OF JUST CREATED MILITARY
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DIRECTORY. TWO GENDARME BODYGUARDS OF RATSIMANDRAVA

KILLED WITH HIM. ACCORDING OFFICIAL STATEMENT,
INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION UNDER WAY. STATEMENT

APPEALS FOR CALM, PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY.

3. MILITARY DIRECTORY, WHICH APPEARS BE FUNCTIONING AT
LEAST PROVISIONALLY AS GOVERNMENT, CONSISTS OF 18
OFFICERS OF ARMED FORCES AND GENDARMERIE, WITH REPRESENTA-
TION FROM EACH OF SIX PROVINCES OF MADAGASCAR. BESIDES
ANDRIAMHAZO, IT INCLUDES EX-FOREIGN MINISTER COMMANDER
DIDIER RATSIRAKA, ALL MILITARY AND GENDARMERIE OFFICERS
WHO WERE MEMBERS OF RATSIMANDRAVA CABINET, AND SEVERAL
CAPTAINS AND LIEUTENANTS.

4. MARTIAL LAW AND CURFEW (7:00 P.M. - 6:00 A.M.)
DECREED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. (CURFEW EXPLAINS WHY INITIAL
MESSAGES SENT DEPT VERBALLY VIA NASA, SINCE IMPOSSIBLE
FOR KEY PERSONNEL REACH EMBASSY DURING NIGHT.)

5. ALL GATHERINGS FORBIDDEN AND ARMS TO BE TURNED IN
TO GENDARMERIE. SCHOOLS INDEFINITELY CLOSED. NATIONAL
MOURNING DECREED.

6. TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS LIGHTER THAN NORMAL THIS
MORNING IN TANANARIVE. ALL CARS BEING SEARCHED BY
SOLDIERS. CITY CALM, BUT SOMEWHAT TENSER THAN USUAL.

7. COMMENTS BY SEPTTEL.
MENDENHALL

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NNN

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To: STATE
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